Dear Jerry, 7/4/97

The deposit of those reported 40,000 pages of Rankin's in the JFK assassination archive at The National Archives suggests to me that for Honorable Men and for other purposes you should ask NA for all records of two Commission sessions at which there was no court reporter, those of 1/24/64 and of 9/18/64. The request should ask for all records relating to those sessions, to what preceded as well as what followed them and to what was said at and in regard to them by Commission members.

If those are all Commission records, and if they are not what is not does not belong there, it seems that from the first Rankin was determined to take what he could not properly take, what was the Commission's, meaning the government's. Or, he stole that stuff.

We have no way of knowing what records he made but there may be the chance that he made some for his own purposes and that they can hold information of value.

In making this request I would be careful not to suggest that he did or had anything improper, the reason I suggest that it be in terms of no court reporter present. Whether or not there is any political observation of any requests now I'd be careful not to trigger any or any inquiry about the possibility.

I'd be sure to refer to them as Commission sessions, too.

Make no reference to the sesssion of 1/22, which led to that of 1/24, because Rankin may have had some notes for what was said after they told the court reporter to go.

If nothing of this nature is provided I'd later make a separate request for it.

Best,